

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus comprising:
a heater configured to heat and fix a toner image formed on a recording medium;
a detector configured to detect a current supplied from an external power source to the image forming apparatus;
a battery configured to supply power to the heater;
a charger configured to charge the battery with power supplied from the external power source; and
a controller configured to control the charger such that a current supplied from the charger to the battery changes based on the current detected by the detector during an image forming period.

Claim 2 (Original): The image forming apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein the heater receives power supplied from the external power source independently of the battery.

Claim 3 (Original): The image forming apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein the heater includes a first heater supplied with power from the external power source and a second heater supplied with power from the battery.

Claim 4 (Original): The image forming apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein the battery includes an electric double-layer capacitor.

Claim 5 (Original): The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a discharging switch configured to connect and disconnect the battery to the heater, wherein said controller controls the discharging switch such that the battery is connected to the heater during a ramp-up period of the image forming apparatus.

Claim 6 (Original): The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a charging switch configured to connect and disconnect the charger to the battery, wherein said controller controls the charging switch such that the charger is connected to the battery during an image forming period of the image forming apparatus.

Claim 7 (Original): The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a charging switch configured to connect and disconnect the charger to the battery, wherein said controller compares the current detected by the detector to a threshold current value, and controls the charging switch such that the charger is connected to the battery when the current detected by the detector is less than the threshold current value.

Claim 8 (Original): The image forming apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the controller controls the charger such that the charger supplies a constant current to the battery.

Claim 9 (Original): The image forming apparatus according to claim 8,

wherein said controller controls the charger such that the constant supplied current is in correspondence with a difference between the current detected by the detector and the threshold current value.

Claim 10 (Original): The image forming apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein the detector detects a voltage supplied from the external power source to the image forming apparatus, and
wherein the controller controls the charger such that power supplied from the charger to the battery changes based on the voltage detected by the detector.

Claim 11 (Original): The image forming apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising:
a charging switch configured to connect and disconnect the charger to the battery,
wherein the controller compares a power calculated based on the current and the voltage detected by the detector to a threshold power value, and controls the charging switch such that the charger is connected to the battery when the calculated power is less than the threshold power value.

Claim 12 (Original): The image forming apparatus according to claim 11,
wherein the controller controls the charger such that the charger supplies a constant power to the battery.

Claim 13 (Original): The image forming apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the controller controls the charger such that the constant supplied power is in correspondence with a difference between the calculated power and the threshold value of the power.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus comprising:
a heater configured to heat and fix a toner image forming on a recording medium;
a detector configured to detect a current supplied from an external power source to the image forming apparatus;
a battery configured to supply power to the heater;
a charger configured to charge the battery with power supplied from the external power source;
a charging switch configured to connect and disconnect the battery to the charger; and
a controller configured to control the charging switch such that the charger connects to the battery based on the current detected by the detector during an image forming period.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus comprising:
a heater configured to heat and fix a toner image formed on a recording medium;
a detector configured to detect a power consumption of the image forming apparatus;
a battery configured to supply power to the heater;
a charger configured to charge the battery with power supplied from an external power source; and
a controller configured to control the charger such that a current supplied from the charger to the battery changes based on the detected power consumption during an image forming period.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus comprising:
a heater configured to heat and fix a toner image formed on a recording medium;
a detector configured to detect a power consumption of the image forming apparatus;

a battery configured to supply power to the heater;
a charger configured to charge the battery with power supplied from an external power source;
a charging switch configured to connect and disconnect the battery to the charger; and
a controller configured to control the charging switch such that the charger connects to the battery based on the detected power consumption during an image forming period.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus comprising:
a heater configured to heat and fix a toner image formed on a recording medium;
a battery configured to supply power to the heater;
a charger configured to charge the battery with power supplied from an external power source;
a charging switch configured to connect and disconnect the battery to the charger; and
a controller configured to control the charging switch such that the charger connects to the battery during an image forming period during an image forming period.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising:

a discharging switch configured to connect and disconnect the battery to the heater,
wherein the controller controls said discharging switch such that the battery is connected to the heater during a ramp-up period of the image forming apparatus.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): An image forming method comprising:
heating and fixing, via a heater, a toner image formed on a recording medium;

detecting a current supplied from an external power source to the image forming apparatus;

supplying power to the heater via a battery;

charging, via a charger, the battery with power supplied from the external power source; and

controlling the charging step such that a current supplied via the charging step to the battery changes based on the current detected by the detecting step, said controlling performed during said heating and fixing.

Claim 20 (Original): The image forming method according to claim 19, further comprising:

supplying the heater with power from the external power source independently of the battery.

Claim 21 (Original): The image forming method according to claim 19, wherein the heater includes a first heater supplied with power from the external power source and a second heater supplied with power from the battery.

Claim 22 (Original): The image forming method according to claim 19, wherein the battery includes an electric double-layer capacitor.

Claim 23 (Original): The image forming method according to claim 19, further comprising:

connecting and disconnecting the battery to the heater, wherein the controlling step controls the connecting and disconnecting step such that the battery is connected to the heater during a ramp-up period of the image forming apparatus.

Claim 24 (Original): The image forming method according to claim 19, further comprising:

connecting and disconnecting the charger to the battery, wherein said controlling step controls the connecting and disconnecting step such that the charger is connected to the battery during an image forming period of the image forming apparatus.

Claim 25 (Original): The image forming method according to claim 19, further comprising:

connecting and disconnecting the charger to the battery, wherein said controlling step compares the current detected by the detecting step to a threshold current value, and controls the connecting and disconnecting step such that the charger is connected to the battery when the current detected by the detecting step is less than the threshold current value.

Claim 26 (Original): The image forming method according to claim 25, wherein the controlling step controls the charger such that the charger supplies a constant current to the battery.

Claim 27 (Original): The image forming method according to claim 26, wherein said controlling step controls the charger such that the constant supplied current is in correspondence with a difference between the current detected by the detecting step and the threshold current value.

Claim 28 (Original): The image forming method according to claim 19,
wherein the detecting step detects a voltage supplied from the external power source to the
image forming apparatus, and

wherein the controlling step controls the charger such that power supplied from the
charger to the battery changes based on the voltage detected by the detecting step.

Claim 29 (Original): The image forming method according to claim 28, further
comprising:

connecting and disconnecting the charger to the battery, wherein the controlling step
compares a power calculated based on the current and the voltage detected by the detecting
step to a threshold power value, and controls the connecting and disconnecting step such that
the charger is connected to the battery when the calculated power is less than the threshold
power value.

Claim 30 (Original): The image forming method according to claim 29,
wherein the controlling step controls the charger such that the charger supplies a constant
power to the battery.

Claim 31 (Original): The image forming method according to claim 30,
wherein the controlling step controls the charger such that the constant supplied power is in
correspondence with a difference between the calculated power and the threshold value of the
power.

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): An image forming method comprising:

heating and fixing, via a heater, a toner image forming on a recording medium;
detecting a current supplied from an external power source to the image forming apparatus;
supplying power to the heater via a battery;
charging, via a charger, the battery with power supplied from the external power source;
connecting and disconnecting the battery to the charger; and
controlling the connecting and disconnecting step such that the charger connects to the battery based on the current detected by the detecting step, said controlling performed during said heating and fixing.

Claim 33 (Currently Amended): An image forming method comprising:
heating and fixing, via a heater, a toner image formed on a recording medium;
detecting a power consumption of the image forming apparatus;
supplying power to the heater via a battery;
charging, via a charger, the battery with power supplied from an external power source; and
controlling the charger such that a current supplied from the charger to the battery changes based on the detected power consumption, said controlling performed during said heating and fixing.

Claim 34 (Currently Amended): An image forming method comprising:
heating and fixing, via a heater, a toner image formed on a recording medium;
detecting a power consumption of the image forming apparatus;
supplying power to the heater via a battery;

charging, via a charger, the battery with power supplied from an external power source;

connecting and disconnecting the battery to the charger; and

controlling the connecting and disconnecting step such that the charger connects to the battery based on the detected power consumption, said controlling performed during said heating and fixing.

Claim 35 (Currently Amended): An image forming method comprising:

heating and fixing, via a heater, a toner image formed on a recording medium;

supplying power to the heater via a battery;

charging, via a charger, the battery with power supplied from an external power source;

connecting and disconnecting the battery to the charger; and

controlling the connecting and disconnecting step such that the charger connects to the battery during an image forming period, said controlling performed during said heating and fixing.

Claim 36 (Original): The image forming method according to claim 35, further comprising:

connecting and disconnecting the battery to the heater, wherein the controller controls the step of connecting and disconnecting the battery to the heater such that the battery is connected to the heater during a ramp-up period of the image forming apparatus.

Claim 37 (Currently Amended): An image forming system comprising:

means for heating and fixing a toner image formed on a recording medium;

means for detecting a current supplied from an external power source to the image forming apparatus;

means for supplying power to the heating means;

means for charging the battery with power supplied from the external power source;

and

means for controlling the charging means such that a current supplied via the charging means to the supplying means changes based on the current detected by the detecting means during an image forming period.

Claim 38 (Original): The image forming system according to claim 37, wherein the heating means receives power supplied from the external power source independently of the battery.

Claim 39 (Original): The image forming system according to claim 37, wherein the heating means includes a first heater supplied with power from the external power source and a second heater supplied with power from the supplying means.

Claim 40 (Original): The image forming system according to claim 37, wherein the supplying means includes an electric double-layer capacitor.

Claim 41 (Original): The image forming system according to claim 37, further comprising:

means for connecting and disconnecting the supplying means to the heating means, wherein the controlling means controls the connecting and disconnecting means such that the

supplying means is connected to the heating means during a ramp-up period of the image forming apparatus.

Claim 42 (Original): The image forming system method to claim 37, further comprising:

means for connecting and disconnecting the charging means to the supplying means, wherein said controlling means controls the connecting and disconnecting means such that the charging means is connected to the supplying means during an image forming period of the image forming apparatus.

Claim 43 (Original): The image forming system according to claim 37, further comprising:

means for connecting and disconnecting the charging means to the supplying means, wherein said controlling means compares the current detected by the detecting means to a threshold current value, and controls the connecting and disconnecting means such that the charging means is connected to the supplying means when the current detected by the detecting means is less than the threshold current value.

Claim 44 (Original): The image forming system according to claim 43, wherein the controlling means controls the charging means such that the charging means supplies a constant current to the supplying means.

Claim 45 (Original): The image forming system according to claim 44,

wherein said controlling means controls the charger such that the constant supplied current is in correspondence with a difference between the current detected by the detecting means and the threshold current value.

Claim 46 (Original): The image forming system according to claim 37,
wherein the detecting means detects a voltage supplied from the external power source to the image forming apparatus, and
wherein the controlling means controls the charger such that power supplied from the charging means to the supplying means changes based on the voltage detected by the detecting means.

Claim 47 (Original): The image forming system according to claim 46, further comprising:

means for connecting and disconnecting the charging means to the supplying means,
wherein the controlling means compares a power calculated based on the current and the voltage detected by the detecting means to a threshold power value, and controls the connecting and disconnecting means such that the charging means is connected to the supplying means when the calculated power is less than the threshold power value.

Claim 48 (Original): The image forming system according to claim 47,
wherein the controlling means controls the charging means such that the charging means supplies a constant power to the supplying means.

Claim 49 (Original): The image forming system according to claim 48,

wherein the controlling means controls the charging means such that the constant supplied power is in correspondence with a difference between the calculated power and the threshold value of the power.

Claim 50 (Currently Amended): An image forming system comprising: means for heating and fixing a toner image forming on a recording medium;

means for detecting a current supplied from an external power source to the image forming apparatus;

means for supplying power to the heating means;

means for charging the supplying means with power supplied from the external power source;

means for connecting and disconnecting the supplying means to the charging means; and

means for controlling the connecting and disconnecting means such that the charging means connects to the supplying means based on the current detected by the detecting means during an image forming period.

Claim 51 (Currently Amended): An image forming system comprising:

means for heating and fixing a toner image formed on a recording medium;

means for detecting a power consumption of the image forming apparatus;

means for supplying power to the heating means;

means for charging the supplying means with power supplied from an external power source; and

means for controlling the charging means such that a current supplied from the charging means to the supplying means changes based on the detected power consumption during an image forming period.

Claim 52 (Currently Amended): An image forming system comprising:
means for heating and fixing a toner image formed on a recording medium;
means for detecting a power consumption of the image forming apparatus;
means for supplying power to the heating means;
means for charging the battery with power supplied from an external power source;
means for connecting and disconnecting the supplying means to the charging means;
and
means for controlling the connecting and disconnecting means such that the charging means connects to the supplying means based on the detected power consumption during an image forming period.

Claim 53 (Original): An image forming system comprising:
means for heating and fixing a toner image formed on a recording medium;
means for supplying power to the heating means;
means for charging the supplying means with power supplied from an external power source;
means for connecting and disconnecting the supplying means to the charging means;
and
means for controlling the connecting and disconnecting means such that the charging means connects to the supplying means during an image forming period.

Claim 54 (Original) The image forming system according to claim 53, further comprising:

means for connecting and disconnecting the supplying means to the heating means;
wherein the controlling means controls the means for connecting and disconnecting the supplying means to the heating means such that the supplying means is connected to the heating means during a ramp-up period of the image forming apparatus.